

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action of July 2, 2002. Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration is therefore earnestly requested. No new matter is added with this amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant accepts the Office Action's definitions of the terms in question. If any action is required, Applicant respectfully requests clarification.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action alleges that claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Design 313203 to Carlson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,695,703 to Carlson. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Carlson fails to show "a partition wall having *a single center portion* wherein the *single center portion of the partition wall comprises a water absorbing portion extending downward to the water room* while communicating with the clay room *wherein the water absorbing portion comprises a plurality of porous apertures extending throughout the single center portion.*" Carlson fails to show a single center portion extending downward to a water room (or section). In contrast, Carlson shows four protrusions. Further, Carlson fails to show the single center portion comprising a water absorbing portion comprising a plurality of porous apertures extending throughout the center portion. There is no disclosure concerning a plurality of porous

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apertures throughout the protrusions in Carlson. Craven fails to make up the deficiencies of Carlson. Neither Carlson nor Carven show the claimed combination of limitations recited by Applicant.

Claims 2 and 3 depend ultimately from independent claim 1 and, as such, contain the features recited in claim 1. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claims 1-3 are improper and request that they be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

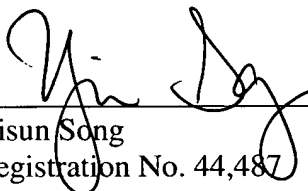
It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that prosecution and allowance of the application will be expedited through an interview, whether personal or telephonic, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with any suggestions leading to the favorable disposition of the application.

The petition fee for a three-month extension of time is enclosed with this Response. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206, and please credit any excess fees to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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